

THE LEAD- STACKER



◀ **NUM-
BER 22
APRIL,
1990** ▶

Copyright © 1990 by John Horn



GENERAL consensus among APA members seems to be that they would rather swap junk and visit with each other than listen to presentations or attend seminars. To that end, I am planning to make this year's Wayzgoose a swap fest and bull session. The following is a preliminary estimation of the schedule and an explanation of the facilities here.

Of course there will be an open house here at Shooting Star press Friday afternoon and evening.

Saturday morning we will congregate at the Horn warehouses for the all-day swap and bull session. Lunch will be brought in. The warehouses are very private, being completely surrounded by a fence. The front warehouse is pretty well filled with printing equipment, some for sale, some not. The back warehouse is only partially filled with wood and household junk. In this back warehouse we'll hold the swap meet and auction.

Between the two warehouses there's a courtyard/parking area where you will be able to set up a table or two or just drop the tailgate of your pickup truck and work off of it. Tables can be provided for you if you wish. If you are bringing a trailer load of stuff and would like to drop it at the warehouse before going to the hotel, let me know in advance. The same applies to anyone bringing a semi-trailer. There are loading docks on both buildings and a five thousand pound capacity fork lift.

The auction will be conducted after lunch. The Right Hon. Col. Churchman has requested (nay, demanded) that the auction be limited to one hundred lots. This shall be done as we will be on a tight schedule in order to get everyone transported back to the hotel for the banquet. The placing of lots in the auction will stop one hour before the auction begins in order that potential buyers may inspect the items before, not during, the auction. Items not sold during the swap meet or auction could be donated to the host, sold to him at very cheap prices or taken back home with the seller. For those traveling by air, purchases may be shipped by UPS after making arrangements with the host. A hospitality and visiting area will be provided at the warehouses for those not wishing to participate in the swap meet and auction or that just want a break from all the heavy action. Sunday's activities are not yet decided but there will be a picnic.

Any questions?

Oh, No!

NOT ANOTHER ONE!

THE HORN FAMILY made a giant leap into the twentieth century with the purchase of a computer. I know this will bring moans and groans from my left-in-the-nineteenth-century letterpress printer friends, but hear me out. Robyn and I have been contemplating a computer for a couple of years but have been timid about the purchase due to the changing technologies and the wildly fluctuating prices. We were also concerned about our ability to learn computer operation at our advanced ages. We felt we had a definite need for a computer but we were having difficulties justifying the cost verses need factors.

With winter coming on, we decided we could afford to devote some time to learn computer operation so, as they say in the television commercials, we "just did it." Our choice of brands was made with the advice of friends and relatives already using computers. We chose a brand that most of them were using so that we could get help when we needed it and from someone besides a "techno-freak" computer salesman. We also chose a brand that did not require us to learn a complicated computer language and *seemed* relatively easy to learn to operate. After handing a grinning salesperson a large amount of money, we walked out of the computer

store with several boxes of we-didn't-know-exactly-what. Unpacking and connecting it all up at home was most interesting. "What the heck is this for?" and "Is this supposed to hook up here?" were frequently muttered. Eventually we thought we had everything hooked up and the big moment arrived to turn on the beast. We flipped on a couple of switches and to our great astonishment, the darned thing came on! We stuck in a floppy disk as instructed and wonder-of-wonders, it looked like we were running this thing! The disk we inserted was a very basic instruction program to show how to manipulate the screen images and what would happen if we pushed certain keys or *commanded* the computer to do a certain task. (I like the word *command*. It makes it sound like you're in total control, right?) As it turns out, this disk is very simplistic and gives one a short sense of security. "Hey, this is going to be a lot easier than I thought!" Then you graduate to the second floppy disk and bam(!) you're cast overboard into a sea of several more floppy disks, many very thick manuals, total confusion, and doubt. After dog-paddling around in this sea for a couple of months, we reached dry land and can now go for a swim with confidence. We feel relatively comfortable with our new little bit of technology and are beginning to think it is saving us some time and effort.

If any of my readers are contemplating a computer purchase may I offer some advice? Those computers

that save you a couple hundred bucks in the initial purchase may cost you a lot more in a short time.

Our choice of brands was made mainly because it was the brand our friends and relatives were using. We can get help any time, night or day, usually in a language we understand. If our equipment breaks down and we need some information, we can take our disks over to our inlaws' and use their computer.

Have a specific need or task for a computer before you buy one. I suppose if you're filthy rich and don't have anything better to do with your time and money, would be a reason to justify a computer, but for the majority of us, money for toys could be better spent. If you do a *lot* of writing a computer could possibly be of some help. If you keep *lots* of records and lists, a computer would probably be a wonderful help. If you do a *lot* of accounting, a computer would, no doubt, be almost a necessity.

Here are our reasons (excuses) for buying a computer and what we're using it for. First and foremost of importance (to me at least), is my type inventory. With well over two thousand fonts in my shop I can't find things. I spend a lot of time wandering around the shop looking for just the right type face for a particular use. I do less wandering now that I can arrange and rearrange my inventory according to size, style, face or family.

Robyn has her artwork in galleries and exhibitions

scattered all over the country. Keeping track of where each piece is, when it should be returned if unsold, the price she's asking, and even the owner of a purchased piece is a task now made much easier with the aid of the computer.

My library has grown to an almost unmanagable size and now with much of it computer inventoried, I can easily find what I have and even what I would like to have.

And finally, word processing (a techno-word for writing and typing) is a very important feature to me. Being a fairly active member of the *ajay* and hobby printing associations, I write a lot of letters. Writing is something that doesn't come easy to me and my spelling is atrocious. Since I've become a bit more comfortable with this computer, the stack of letters-to-be-answered that was piled so high on my desk has been reduced to an almost current pile. Who knows, maybe I'll even get around to putting out more *Leadstackers*.

If you're thinking of buying a computer to balance your checkbook, buy a calculator; they're cheaper and a lot easier to learn to operate. If you only have a hundred or so recipes you want to keep track of, buy a file box, they're cheaper, take up less space on your desk, and use much less electricity. If you only write two letters a week, buy a typewriter, or better yet, learn calligraphy; people will cherish your letters. Whatever you do, don't try to put out an amateur journal with a dot-matrix printer.

If I've happened to convince one of my readers to take the big step, I give you these warnings. Be prepared to read like you're working on a masters degree. Be prepared to do a lot of cussing, throwing, desk pounding and have serious frustrations. And be prepared to devote a large block of time to learn to cooperate with the little beast. Just don't let the computer take over your life.

To all my letterpress friends, if I haven't lost you yet, I promise never to assault you with a computer generated journal. If I ever do, Sky Shipley will lead a committee to lash me to the flywheel of my C & P and flog me with my SCSI cables.


Now to those of you who are techno-freaks and/or casual users and are dying to know what brand of computer we're using, it's a Macintosh Plus, with 30 MB hard drive, an ImageWriter II printer, and I use primarily Microsoft Works programs.



*There's no underestimating the
intelligence of the American
public.*

H. L. Mencken

AN ODE TO PRESSES

OWN the long basement, ranged a-row,
All day the swift-wheeled presses go;
Tireless in purpose, future fraught,
Heavy artillery of thought;
And instinct with a loyal sense
That waits upon intelligence.
All day outrings their iron clang
And clatter of steel and rhythmic bang.
Yes, mere machines for type and ink:
And yet I fancy that they think,
And that some forceful spirit stirs
Within their ponderous cylinders;
For words of wisdom oft are told
By the white paper onward rolled,
And deep, prophetic lore let fall
By the grim type, that knows it all.

These paper missiles, random sent,
Shall shake the vaulted continent;
Or flash a simultaneous gain
To many a quick, receptive brain;
Or battle down some mighty wrong,
Or ancient idol, cherished long.
Oh! who can measure, who can guess
The giant potency of the press?

Oh! enginery of boon or blight!
Who dares to wield should wield aright;
Who dares to wield, of this be sure,—
So long as earth and days endure,

The printed sentence forward speeds
To farthest bound of human needs:—
And thus I muse amid the clang
And clatter of steel and rhythmic bang.



Anonymous

— Help Wanted —

OK all you type identification aficionados, here's a *small* problem for you. These fonts are both on a six point body. I would like to know the name of the face, the foundry, and date of specimen where you found it.

ABCDEF GHIJ KLMNOP QRSTUVWXYZ & \$ 1234567890 ? ! " % ' , ; : ' ?

ABCDEF GHIJ KLMNOP QRSTUVWXYZ & \$ 1234567890 ? ! " % ' , ; : ' ?


W A N T E D

Open or wood type cases, prefer wood fronts, without lips, one or one hundred, paying \$6.

8, 10, 12, & 14 Cheltenham Old Style Caps, or will take entire font if necessary, prefer new but will accept lightly used, *must* be ATF.

Books are fatal: they are the curse of the human race. Nine-tenths of existing books are nonsense, and the clever books are the refutation of that nonsense. The greatest misfortune that ever befell man was the invention of printing. Benjamin Disraeli

FOR SALE CHEAP

One 10 x 15 C & P and one Challenge proof press, both located in central Michigan. Contact John Horn at (501) 568-4743 or at the address listed in the colophon. 

» COLOPHON «

Here ends the twenty-second Leadstacker done up into handset type and printed on a 10 x 15 Chandler and Price old style platen press by John Horn at his private press under the sign of the Shooting Star. The type used on the cover is Publicity Gothic and the plaid pattern was developed from a suggestion by Barbi Bennett. The poem was set in a face called Poor Richard and cast by Keystone Type Foundry. Those strange looking initials are Bradley Ultra Modern Initials which are seldom seen and would have looked better with a modern body type. The paper used on the inside of this issue is one hundred per cent recycled Minimum Impact paper from Earth Care Paper Company, obtained with the help of my friend Susan Casey of Saluda, North Carolina, who is a very environmentally conscious person and active in her community promoting recycling.

7801 WESTWOOD AVENUE
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204

